



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/727,079	12/02/2003	Kenji Onoda	MIZ71.ORG	6024

6980 7590 04/10/2006

TROUTMAN SANDERS LLP
600 PEACHTREE STREET, NE
ATLANTA, GA 30308

EXAMINER

HUNTER, ALVIN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3711

DATE MAILED: 04/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/727,079	Applicant(s) ONODA ET AL.	
	Examiner Alvin A. Hunter	Art Unit 3711	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 14 is objected to because of the following informalities: the word "glass" should read --glass fiber--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 8-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The specification does not contain any antecedent basis for the term "veil". Terminology within the claims should be consistent with the terminology of the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States

Art Unit: 3711

only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 8, 12, 13, 15, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lo et al. (USPN 5624331).

Regarding claim 8, Lo et al. discloses a wood-type club head comprising a sole **26**, a striking plate **18**, a side section extending rearward of the striking plate and having a toe **22**, rear **24**, and heel **20** regions, a top portion having an upper opening formed therein, a shoulder disposed around a periphery of the upper opening, and a ledge **34** extending from the shoulder towards a center portion of the upper opening, a crown **14** and **16** coupled to the ledge and having a side edge, wherein the side edge of the crown is disposed proximate to the shoulder, and a veil (epoxy resin) disposed between the side edge of the crown and the shoulder.

Regarding claims 12, Lo et al. discloses the veil made of a composite material being that when the cover is heat the epoxy resin from the crown allows for it to bond with the metal casing.

Regarding claims 13 and 15, Lo et al. disclose the crown and veil comprising a first and second material wherein the first and second material are the same material.

Regarding claim 16, Lo et al. shows the veil covering the entire side edge of the crown.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and

Art Unit: 3711

the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lo et al. (USPN 5624331).

Regarding claim 14, Lo et al. does not disclose the second material being glass. Applicant does not disclose why glass is essential in constructing the invention. Applicant notes that any type of fibers may achieve the similar results. Lo et al. discloses the graphite-epoxy composite, wherein graphite is carbon. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found the graphite-epoxy composite to perform equally as well because it facilitates bond of the crown to the club head body.

Claims 9-11 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lo et al. (USPN 5624331) in view of Yabu (USPN 68875126).

Regarding claims 9-11, Lo et al. does not disclose the at least one of the side edge of the crown or shoulder being tapered. Applicant does not note why it is essential for the edges of the crown or shoulder to be tapered. Applicant notes that the gap between the shoulder and the side edges of the crown may form a U-shaped as well. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found the profile of the side edges of the crown or the shoulder to perform equally as well with any profile. If in doubt, Yabu discloses a wood-type club head having different profile gaps between the side edge of the crown and a shoulder wherein the profiles in conjunction with a veil improves the rigidity of the club head. Yabu also notes that the gap angles can be widened. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to have the any profile for the

Art Unit: 3711

gap and have it of any size so long as the rigidity is improved and would have found it obvious to incorporate the gap profiles into Lo et al. because of such reason.

Regarding claims 17, See the above regarding claims 1 and 9-11.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yabu (USPN 6875126).

Regarding claim 17, Yabu discloses a wood-type club head having a sole, striking plate, a side section extending rearward of the striking plate and having toe, rear, and heel regions, a top portion having an upper opening formed therein a shoulder disposed around a periphery of the upper opening, a ledge extending from the shoulder towards a center portion of the upper opening, a crown coupled to the ledge and having a side edge, wherein the side edge of the crown is disposed proximate to the shoulder thereby forming a depression therebetween, and a means for filling at least a portion of the obtuse depression. Yabu suggest the angles of the depression may vary, thus one having ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to have any angle depression so long as the rigidity of the club head is improved.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 8-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alvin A. Hunter whose telephone number is (571) 272-

Art Unit: 3711

4411. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30AM to 4:00PM Eastern Time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Kim, can be reached on 571-272-4463. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Alvin A. Hunter, Jr.



EUGENE KIM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER